seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of Employment Exchanges in Punjab as on 31.12.1996 were 5.40 lakh.

(b) As per information available the number of Scheduled Castes and handicapped job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of the Employment Exchanges in Punjab as on 31.12.1995 (latest available) were 155.5 and 8.7 thousand respectively. Only seven Scheduled Tribe job-seekers are registered in the Employment Exchanges in Punjab.

Information on widows, ex-servicemen and terrorist affected job-seekers etc. is not maintained.

Job scheme for educated unemployed from poor families

986. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating a job scheme for the educated unemployed from poor families; and

(b) if so, by when it will be started?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Employment is a thrust area of the Eight Five Year Plan. The Plan envisages a strategy for accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities in the country, both for the educated and the uneducated, on the basis of faster growth of employment intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. In addition, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for providing self-employment opportunities to the unemployed educated youth is being implemented in the country.

भविष्य निधि और पेंशन राशियों का निवेश

987. **श्री सोमपाल: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) क्या सरकार भविष्य निधि और पेंशन राशियों को यूनिट ट्रस्ट, सरकारी क्षेत्र के उद्योगों के ऋण पत्रों और सावधि जमाराशियों में लगाने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना का पूरा विवरण और औचित्य क्या है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम. अरूणाचलम): (क) और (ख) भविष्य निधि/पेंशन निधि के निवेश के स्वरूप के पुनरीक्षण का एक प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

Schemes and Programmes for Abolishing Child Labour from Hazardous Industry and Mines

988. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes and programme launched since April, 1996, for abolishing child labour from hazardous jobs, industries and mines, in pursuance of Government's declared policy; and

(b) the progress so far made therein, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A major programme was launched in August, 1994 for the rehabilitation of an estimated 2 million children working in hazardous occupations. By the end of April 1996, 76 child labour projects had been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. These child labour projects are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. A major activity undertaken under the child labour projects is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. According to the information received so far, 1810 special schools have been set up covering about 1.04 lakh children. Most of these schools have opened after April 1996. Funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 123 districts and for awareness generation against the evil of child labour in 133 districts. The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement dated 10.12.96, has also given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in the hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn from work

and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of the children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. For giving effect to the directions of Supreme Court, detailed guidelines have been sent to the State Governments. The process for conduct for survey has already begun.

Implementation of the Recommendations by the NCRL

989. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) in its report of 1991 had recommended that the minimum rate of wages for the agricultural workers should not be fixed below Rs. 20 per day on the basis of prices prevailing during 1990's;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been implemented by the State Governments particularly that of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to implement the recommendations of NCRL throughout the country for the benefit of agricultural workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. After discussion a concensus evolved in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in February, 1992, the Central Government requested the State Governments to implement the recommendations. According to information available, almost all States including the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have implemented this recommendation.

(d) Major steps taken to implement the recommendations of NCRL for the benefit of agricultural workers include taking up comprehensive Central legislation to regulate the employment and conditions of service and to provide for their welfare; improvement of infrastructural facilities in rural areas, intensified developmental programmes, self employment and financial assistance programmes; substantial increase in outlays for Rural Development during the VIIIth Plan and

Establishment Registered with B.I.F.R. having default of ESI and EPF due

990. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) number of establishments registered with BIFR having default of ESI dues and Employees Provident Fund dues as on 30th September, 1996;

(b) the outstanding amounts involved;

(c) the number of defaulting Public Sector establishments;

(d) number of defaulting establishments where the payment has been made from the Special Reserve Fund (SRF) formed under EPF Scheme and the total amount paid so far;

(e) whether ESI and EPF authorities are facing problems in recovery of EPF and ESI because of Section 22 of SICA; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government so far to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) According to available information there are 346 establishments registered with BIFR having ESI arrear of Rs. 105.68 crore and 379 establishments registered with BIFR having EPF arrear of Rs. 132.00 crore.

(c) In public sector there are 93 establishments having ESI default and 236 establishments having EPF default.

(d) An amount of Rs. 6.20 crore has been paid from the Special Reserve Fund in respect of 37 unexempted defaulting establishments.

(e) and (f) Immediate coercive recovery action is not possible against the establishments registered with BIFR. However, necessary action as provided under the ESI Act and the EPF & MP Act is taken to recover the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

A.I.T.U.C.'s demand for exemption from ESI Act

991. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Trade Union